



**COMSECNDFLT Public Affairs**  
1751 Morris St., Bldg D-29, Norfolk, VA 23511  
Voice: 757-443-9850 (X47127)/Fax: 757-443-9805  
POC: Cmdr. Conrad Chun  
<http://www.secondfleet.navy.mil/>



**C2F 06-25MA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUN 21, 2006**

## ***Navy ships return from Dutch-led Joint Caribbean Lion 06 Exercise***

Norfolk, Va. — Nearly 2,000 Sailors who participated in Joint Caribbean Lion 06 exercise will return home in the coming days after completing a successful deployment to the Caribbean Sea.

Sailors from the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) will return to Naval Station Norfolk, while amphibious dock-landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), which is also completing a homeport shift will arrive at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va. Both ships are scheduled to arrive on **Friday, June 24**. The guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) is scheduled to return to Mayport, Fla., **Thursday, June 23**.

The three-ship Bataan group participated in the Dutch-led exercise “Joint Caribbean Lion 2006.” U.S. forces focused on enhancing relationships with partner nations and improving operational readiness during the three-week exercise. Caribbean Lion provided the opportunity for U.S. and other forces to operate in a multi-national environment.

Commodore, Amphibious Squadron Two, Capt. Donna Looney, led U.S. Navy participation in the multi-national exercise, which included France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

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**NOTE: Media partners to cover this event should contact the Second Fleet Public Affairs Office at (757) 443-9850 (x47127) by Thursday June 22 at 3 p.m.**

**Media interested in embarking BATAAN to cover the Family and Friends day, contact JOCS(SW/AW) Dave Fitz at [fitzd@lhd5.navy.mil](mailto:fitzd@lhd5.navy.mil) or via phone (757)443-7505 by noon on Thursday, June 22.**

**Media interested in covering USS Taylor should contact Naval Station Mayport Public Affairs at (904) 270-5226.**